

To whom it may concern

I am writing to show my support for SB 522. Throughout the past years Connecticut's black bear population has grown immensely. Being a licensed hunter and trapper in the state of Connecticut over the past 5 years I have had countless encounters with bears and more frequent. A few of the male bears in the state are growing up to right under 500 pounds. Our bear population is at an all time high and continues to grow. Bears are starting to become problem animals and nuisances. Human interactions come more frequently.

Study's in the state have shown that black bears are responsible for killing more fawns than coyotes. The state no longer relocates bears anymore because of their numbers this results in the state killing at least a bear a week due to car crashes or a nuisance. Allowing a bear season would regulate the population of bears to a healthy number and also would help out our dwindling deer population. We must listen to our state DEEP bear biologists and go forth with a hunting season. I too care about wildlife and the future of black bears in this state. Being an outdoorsman I have seen first hand what over population and population density can do to a species. Black bears in the state of Connecticut are a real issue that deserve a real answer and action. Please support SB 522.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Andersen